

**Buckley  
Elementary  
School**

# Bobcat News

A Great Place  
to Grow and  
Explore

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## Principal's Corner

October 2014

Dear Bobcat Families,

I cannot believe that it is already October! Fall is here and there is a chill in the air. September was very busy here at Buckley School. As a brief review, we accomplished the following:

- \* As a school, we reviewed **PBIS** expectations with all our students. For example, we taught expected behavior in many areas of our school including classrooms, cafeteria, hallways and buses.
- \* The **PTA** held their Back to School Cook Out that was a huge hit! Thank you to the **PTA**.
- \* We held our Open Houses in early September. We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the classrooms and meeting your child's teacher.
- \* We are in the final stages of opening our newly remodeled media center!
- \* Buckley School is planning a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! Stay tuned for more details.
- \* We have installed the 2 SmartBoards that the **PTA** purchased for our school!
- \* For those families who access Lexia at home, please know that new usernames and passwords will be distributed this week.

In addition to the above, your children have been working very hard in the classrooms. We are in the middle stages of our Fall assessments. These assessments will drive our instruction in order to best meet the needs of all our students.

As a friendly reminder, we hold emergency drills once a month. These emergency drills include fire drills and lockdown drills. Please know that these drills are meant for practice. I am also including in the newsletter our procedures for drop off and pick up. Please make sure you read this as it is very important.

Lastly, listed below are dates of a few events taking place here at school.

October 1	Picture Day
October 4	Cross Country Challenge at Manchester high School
October 10	Our first Pep Rally!
October 22	1:17 dismissal

Thank you again for all that you do as we continue to build a strong partnership between school and home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school. As a reminder, please follow me on twitter @ BuckleyBobcats.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

### **Bobcat Central**

250 Vernon Street  
Manchester, CT  
06042

Phone:  
(860)647-3302  
Fax:  
(860)647-5007  
Illness:  
(860)647-3344  
Nurse:  
(860)647-3303



Principal



## Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School

250 Vernon Street

Manchester, CT 06042

[www.mpspride.org](http://www.mpspride.org)

**Mr. Matthew Daly,**

Principal

[b21mdaly@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21mdaly@manchesterct.gov)

Phone: 860-647-3302

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*A Great Place to Grow and Explore*

September 12, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardians,

At Buckley School, we have specific procedures specific to dropping off and picking up your child. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention these procedures. In addition, I have also provided you with a reminder of our procedures for visiting Buckley.

In order to alleviate some traffic issues in the front, I suggest that, if your child is in grades 3-5, utilize the back parking lot via Barry Road for both drop-offs and pick-ups. As a guide for the back parking lot area off Barry Road, please follow the protocol outlined below:

Please park on the right hand side. When entering the parking lot, please pull all the way down.

After picking up your child, please follow the parking lot and make a loop to turn around and exit the parking lot. Please drive slowly and watch for children.

If your child is in grades K-2, I am asking that you utilize the front of the building specifically, the circle for drop-off and pick-up. Please remember not to double park your car in the circle during the morning or afternoon. Please keep your cars moving around the circle if there is not a space available. We do have additional spaces located in the back parking lot. Please note that there is always parking available in the back of the building off Barry Road. Please follow the protocol outlined below:

If you are using the circle to drop off your child, please park on the right hand side of the circle.

Please **DO NOT** stop in the middle of the circle to drop-off your child. This creates a traffic jam and is unsafe for our children. Also, please do not park on the inside of the circle

Please walk your children to and from the building after parking your car.

Please drive slowly and watch for children.

In our continued effort to provide a structured and safe environment here at Buckley, please first stop by the main office when visiting your child's classroom, volunteering your time or attending an event. Please sign in at the main office and we will provide you with a Visitor Sticker.

Also, if you are picking up your child early or are changing the normal routine with respect to drop-off/pick-up, please write a note to your child's teacher and the main office. This will insure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Daly  
Principal



# Buckley Elementary School



## MONTH of OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 C Day	2 A Day	3 B Day	4 Cross Country Challenge @ MHS 9:00 – 12:30
5	6 C Day  Lyman Fund- raiser begins	7 A Day	8 B Day  Fire Preven- tion Program K-2 9:30	9 C Day  PTA Mtg 6:30 pm	10 A Day  Pep Rally 2:30	11
12	13  COLUMBUS DAY	14 B Day	15 C Day	16 A Day	17 B Day  Fun Friday 2:30	18
19	20 C Day	21 A Day	22 B Day  1:17 DISMIS- SAL	23 C Day	24 A Day  Book Bingo 6:30pm	25
26 	27 B Day	28 C Day	29 A Day	30 B Day	31 C Day	

# Kindergarten

We are off to a great start! The kindergarteners have been very busy learning how to be a Buckley Bobcat! For the month of September our focus has been on making new friends and learning the rules and routines of our classrooms. The K students are learning what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible. In September we completed our "All About Me", unit. We had fun learning of ways we are similar and different from our classmates. We also celebrated Mother Goose, and all of the fun exciting nursery rhymes.

Next Month, we will be focusing more on letters and sounds. We will also be learning new sight words each week. In math, we will continue our focus on numbers 1-10. Please practice number writing at home and count everything! Our themes for October will include Autumn and Pumpkins. We will also have fun talking about "Make-Believe". Please remember to check your child's folder daily. It is filled with important information of the goings on in the classroom and our school community. Remember to encourage your child to write their name the kindergarten way, with first letter capitals. Thanks for your support! It has been a great beginning to the 2014-2015 school year!

## First Grade

Dear Families,

We are off to a wonderful start in First Grade! It was delightful to meet so many family members during open house. Thank you for taking the time to join us. We have been reviewing lots of Kindergarten skills and now we are working on first grade curriculum. You should be helping your child to read books and the word cards we are sending home. Practice with addition and subtraction facts to 10 would also be very helpful. Thank you for all your support!

Mrs. Bourcier, Ms. Seaha and Miss Patrylak



## Second Grade

Second graders have been welcoming fall by modelling and practicing what makes a good reader by using before, during, and after reading strategies. We will be reviewing how to retell stories as well as sharing our thoughts and ideas about what we read with one another in small groups. We have been working on learning the expectations of our literacy stations.

In writing, we are reviewing what makes a sentence: uppercase letters at the beginning, proper letter formations, spacing, punctuation, and capitalization of proper nouns. This month, the second graders will also be crafting their own small moment narratives. In math, we have been reviewing addition and subtraction strategies that help make our math facts automatic through our math station activities!

We can still use our number lines, hundreds charts, and fingers, but we are moving toward mental math facts like: doubles plus one ( $5+6$ ), tens partners ( $3+7$ ), counting up ( $14-12$ ) and think addition (if  $7+3=10$ , then  $10-3=7$ ). We will be starting our map skills unit! Be on the look-out for street signs, map symbols, landmarks, and cardinal direction words!

Fondly,  
Mrs. Strickland and Miss Adams

## Third Grade

It was very nice to meet all of the parents at Open House. Thank you for signing up for your conference day and time. We are working on adding and subtracting strategies in Math, creating Narratives in writing, and story maps for Reading.

## Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students are off to a fabulous start. Right now during reading we are studying how themes communicate different messages. The children are reading, summarizing, comparing, and contrasting the treatment of similar themes and topics. We are working on developing personal narratives in writing.

In Math the children are using place value understandings to perform multi digit arithmetic with all four operations. Please continue to encourage your child to complete nightly homework assignments and the daily reading log.

Thanks for your support!

Grade 4 Teachers



## Fifth Grade

It was so great to see so many familiar faces and meet new friends at Open House. If you were unable to come that evening we will be contacting you to touch base and inquire as to when you would like your December conferences.

We are happy to report that the fifth grade has gotten off to a smooth start and we are all adjusting to our new, busy schedules. Please ask your child to show you the home-work planner, if not daily, at least a couple of times of week. It is important the students learn to use these tools to help them develop good study habits and as a means to plan ahead and stay organized.

In addition, they will be required to use them next year when they have several teachers' assignments to keep track of. Also, please make sure your child is reading 20-30 minutes every night.

Thanks so much,

The Fifth Grade Teachers

## MAP News

Last month we had a great start. We enjoyed meeting new friends and staff. Our class enjoyed the first few weeks of music therapy with Miss Nicole. Our wonderful specialists are Ms. Chasse, speech clinician, Mrs. Vigue, occupational therapist, Ms. Tierney, physical therapist and Ms. Ferreira, social worker.

This month we will be working on projects and activities related to our fall theme. We have added 2 new songs to our circle books. They are "5 Little Leaves" and "5 Little Pumpkins". Our projects and activities will involve leaves and pumpkins. Our students will continue to work on skills at their individual level.

## Coaches Corner

We want to welcome everyone to the 2014-2015 school year! Thank you to all the families who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and completed the Summer Math Packet this year. We're looking forward to an exciting year as we continue to support the teachers in implementing the Common Core Curriculum.

Thank you,  
Tammy O'Malley - Literacy Coach  
Lisa Miner - Numeracy Coach



# Specials

## **P.E.**

Registration forms for the Cross Country Challenge have recently been sent home with your children. This is a free event for students in the Manchester Elementary Schools. If it fits into your busy schedules, we would love to see you there. It is always a very exciting day and we hope that many of you can join us.

There are many different things going on in the gym as we kick off the school year. Mr. Kolze is working hard helping the students use their feet to control a soccer ball and pass safely to classmates. It is so tempting to use our hands but we are getting better at just using our feet! Our 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade students have the soccer ball under control and are moving forward to play some fun games using soccer skills.

When we are not practicing soccer skills many of us in preK-2 are floating, galloping, skipping, jumping, running and tip-toeing to some fun music as we move safely around the gym. Being able to move safely has helped us get ready to play Rain Clouds and Sunshine. Not sure what that is??? Ask your students and they can explain it to you. Enjoy the Fall weather and don't forget to spend time playing outside trying to catch some falling leaves!!!

PE Staff— Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski

## **ART**

Our year is off to a great start in the Art Room! I was pleased to meet many of you at the Buckley School Open House for Kindergarten through Second grade. We have been working hard on many projects from self-portraits to sunflower collages. All the children seem eager to learn and have been hard working artists! If you have any questions about what your children are learning in Art, please feel free to contact me. Remember, dress for mess on Art days! It will be a wonderful year!

Mrs. Maloney, Art Teacher

## **MUSIC**

It has been an exciting first month at Buckley School! The new kindergartners have been learning our classroom routines, and even have had chances to play instruments like tambourines and sand blocks. First graders have been learning verses to silly songs such as "Old Joe Clark", while second graders are mastering the beat with the "Spy Game!" Third grade has begun to name the lines and spaces on the staff - there are so many games to play as we learn it, such as "Lines and Spaces Twister"! Fourth grade has been layering rhythms - ask them to show you "My Heart", "Old Tom", and "STOMP/CLAP." Fifth grade, meanwhile, has listened to many versions of the Star Spangled Banner - the grade favorite is Christina Aguilera's version!

Some time in October I will be beginning my maternity leave, but we have found a wonderful teacher and musician to take over. Ms. Sarah Petersen has many amazing songs that she is eager to share with our students. Please give her a warm welcome to our Buckley family - and I'll be back soon!



Keep singing, everybody!  
Mrs. Leonard



# Nurse's Corner

## MANCHESTER SCHOOLS

Sick children—send or stay home?

Guidelines for Parents

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below and seek the advice of your health care provider.

If your child has a temperature of 100.4, he/she must stay home. Your child cannot return to school until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours.

**COLDS:** Your child must stay home if he/she has a thick, colored discharge from the nose or has a wheezing, croupy cough. For more severe symptoms, your child must remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone and the appetite returns to normal.

**CONJUNCTIVITIS: (Pink Eye):** When the white of the eye is clear, no redness, which is at least 24 hours after the child begins using antibiotic eye drops, he/she is no longer contagious and may return to school.

**STREP THROAT:** Your child may return to school when the temperature is normal for at least 24 hours and the child has taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours. All severe sore throats and swollen glands should be evaluated by a health care provider.

**RASH:** Your child should stay home and be evaluated by a health care provider for any unknown rashes.

**IMEPTIGO:** Your child may return to school only after using prescribed medication for at least 24 hours. Infected areas must be covered when the child returns to school. The child may not return to school with open, oozing sores.

**VOMITING:** Your child may not return to school until there is no fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours and has tolerated at least two normal meals.

In the event that your child does not have a fever, if they are exhibiting negative changes in behavior, temperament, or classroom performance due to various health concerns (i.e. fatigue, colds, constipation, etc.) you will be called to pick up your child.

Please consider the health of your child and the other children in the class and follow these guidelines before sending your child back to school. You will be called by the school nurse to come pick up your child in the event that these guidelines are not met.

Thank you. Carolyn Hussey, School Nurse





# Media Center

Coming Soon a whole new look for our beloved Buckley Library. If you look up from outside the front of the building you can see the beginning of the transformation with the mural on our picture window. And that's only the beginning, we will soon be a true research center for our students. The addition of a computer lab. will enable us to teach our students both print and online research techniques. We are very excited with all the changes that are happening and are looking forward to our grand re-opening when we will invite you to share the Library's leap into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Café Time

Hi from the Cafeteria!

Miss Julie and I had a chance to meet many parents/guardians at the PTA's Cookout/Open House, of course Miss Julie already knows many of you from last year, and she has a son here at Buckley.

Now that school's underway, I have a few quick reminders.



- 1). Anyone with food allergies, changes to previous allergies, or if you take medication to alleviate reactions to allergies, please make sure to complete the forms, and that the school nurse has this information.
- 2). If you qualify for free, or reduced meals, make sure you have completed the proper paperwork, and submitted it.
- 3). Make sure you talk to your child about permission to purchase extra food items. It's important for them to understand if they are allowed, or not allowed to purchase extras.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to stop by or call us at 647-3306. We are available from 8:00 am – 10:30 am, or after we serve lunch, from 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 647-3462. The office is open from 8 am – 4:00 pm every school day.

Please note if you want to stop by the kitchen you need to go to the school office to get a visitors pass. We are all working to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Dale Schuetz





## **Buckley School PTA**

### **News and Events**

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



Our next PTA meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 9th  
at 6:30 p.m. in the Buckley cafeteria!

The PTA will hear from the Kindergarten teachers and their student representatives and find out what's going on in their classrooms. As usual Mr. Daly will update us on what's happening at the school, and we'll approve our annual budget. Also, Superintendent Geary will talk with us about the November school referendum. Come hear what it's all about!

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The Welcome Back Cookout drew about 250 people in early September and we hope we'll get good turnouts for the rest of our fall lineup of events: Book Bingo, Oct. 24; Blue Tie Auction, Nov. 7; and Book Fair, Dec. 1-5.

#### **FUNDRAISERS**

In order to pay for these events — and make numerous school contributions for things such as class field trips and teacher supplies — the PTA has planned a variety of fundraisers with the hope of suiting everyone's taste. We've just wrapped up our Fall Fundraiser and are about to begin a Lyman Pie Sale. Pies will be distributed Nov. 17 just in time for Thanksgiving! Fill your freezer for the holidays!

#### **AND THERE'S MORE...**

You finally can unload your growing mass of Box Tops for Education during our October collection. It's also not too late to become a PTA member (email Kayle Gagnon at [kayletgagnon@netzero.net](mailto:kayletgagnon@netzero.net)) or volunteer for an event (email us at the above address). Without volunteers none of this would be possible. We need every one of you!

